

Capsule Summary
SM-626
Knights of St. Jerome Hall
Dameron
Private
(Page 1)

c. 1885

Initially called the Saint Inigoes Beneficial Society, the Knights of St. Jerome took its present name on March 1, 1880 thus "uniting together the various beneficial societies into a single order."¹ Ever since it was first conceived, the organization has taken care of the widows and orphans, helped to bury the indigent dead, and care for the sick and disabled. According to current members such as Robert Gant and Vincent Biscoe, the organization has changed little since it was first started. Today, the group offers scholarship money to deserving students wishing to attend college and it holds a number of seasonal barbecues and celebrations. Their meeting hall is the oldest beneficial society hall to remain in continual use in St. Mary's County. Others such as the Love and Charity Society Hall (SM-281) and the Sacred Heart Beneficial Society Hall (SM-282) are no longer used and have fallen into grave disrepair.

On June 12, 1885, the Knights purchased a one acre tract on the northwest corner of Trappe and Old Three Notch Roads for \$30 from Allen C. Tyler.² On September 30 the group held a cornerstone laying celebration at which John Cajay gave a rousing oration concerning equality and religious freedom.³ He was joined on the stage by several trustees of the organization including the group's first president Nicholas Biscoe. The resulting hall was a large two story frame building that was covered with clapboard and a decorative, pressed-tin metal roof. This

¹ Reverend Francis Michael Walsh, Resurrection: The Story of the St. Inigoes Mission: 1634-1994 (N.p.: N.p., 1996), 247-250.

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building immediately became a center point not only for Society functions but also for political meetings and became the site of the parish's first black parochial school.⁴ While the building has been added on to and modified since it was initially built, the hall retains enough historic fabric to communicate its intended function.

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SM-626, Knights of St. Jerome
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture
Social/Education/Cultural
Religion

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural crossroads

Historic Function and Use:

Meeting Hall and School

Known Design Source:

None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-626

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Knights of St. Jerome

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 17765 Three Notch Rd. not for publication

city, town Dameron vicinity of congressional district 1

state Md county St. Mary's TM-68, G-1, P-58

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Knights of St. Jerome

street & number General Delivery Robert Gant, POC
telephone no.: 301-872-4384

city, town Dameron state and zip code Md 20628

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber JFF 8

street & number folio 473

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-626

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Knights of St. Jerome hall is located in Dameron, Maryland. Lying on the northwest corner of the intersection of Trapp Road and Maryland Rt. 235, the hall is oriented on a north/south axis with its primary elevation facing Trapp Road. The one acre parcel is largely devoid of vegetation as much of the property is planted with grass with the exception of the area immediately in front of the primary elevation which is paved with blacktop. Part of this blacktop area is enclosed by a series of benches that form a small courtyard or square. The property is bounded to the west by a residential lot, to the north by a wooded parcel and on the east and south by roads. A masonry concession stand with a shed roof lies perpendicular to the hall.

The Knights of St. Jerome hall is a two story, frame building with an L-shaped plan. Initially constructed c. 1880, the original building has received several additions over time. This includes a two story addition, an accompanying one story, frame wing, and a one story cinder block addition that extends from the main block.. Much of the building stands on a brick pier foundation, now partially obscured by clapboard siding. The siding is attached to the frame with both wire and fully formed cut nails. The roof of the main block is covered with decorative pressed-metal shingles, while the additions feature asphalt shingle roofs.

The primary or south elevation consists of the main block's side and the gable end of the two story addition. The main block is pierced by a centrally located set of two doors flanked on either side by two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. All of these bays are shaded by a hipped porch supported by a series of plain, square posts. This porch extends the full length of the elevation. The second floor is unglazed. A projecting cross-gable sheathed with saw-tooth patterned shingles features a lone six-over-six window. Judging from a difference in the sheathing, a vertical seam between the main block and addition, and a difference in the roof covering, it appears that the two story addition was constructed after the main block. The two story addition is pierced on the first floor by a door. The second floor is pierced by a six-over-six window.

The east elevation consists of the side of the two story addition and one story, frame wing added subsequent to the addition. The addition is pierced on the first and second floors by three six-over-six windows. The wing exhibits a centrally placed panelled door flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. Both the addition and wing feature interior end chimney flues that protrude through the roofs. The wing's chimney is constructed of brick, while the addition's is composed of cinder block.

The north elevation is composed of the wing's gable end and the rear of the main block. The wing is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. The main block also has two six-over-six windows. A one story, unfenestrated, masonry addition extends in a perpendicular direction from the main block.

The west elevation consists of the rear of the one story wing and addition as well as the main block's gable end. The wing has two six-over-six windows and the main block features two unglazed windows situated in the attic. These windows lie on either side of an interior end, cinder block chimney that pierces the roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-626

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Initially called the Saint Inigoes Beneficial Society, the Knights of St. Jerome took its present name on March 1, 1880 thus "uniting together the various beneficial societies into a single order."¹ Ever since it was first conceived, the organization has taken care of the widows and orphans, helped to bury the indigent dead, and care for the sick and disabled. According to current members such as Robert Gant and Vincent Biscoe, the organization has changed little since it was first started. Today, the group offers scholarship money to deserving students wishing to attend college and it holds a number of seasonal barbecues and celebrations. Their meeting hall is the oldest beneficial society hall to remain in continual use in St. Mary's County. Others such as the Love and Charity Society Hall (SM-281) and the Sacred Heart Beneficial Society Hall (SM-282) are no longer used and have fallen into disrepair.

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Survey No. SM-626

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

[illegible]

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

state Md

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
410-517-1000

SM-626, Knights of St. Jerome

St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

The interior was inaccessible at the time of the visit.

The cinder block concession stand is entered via a door located on its south side. The stand has three bays that are used to sell food during events.

SM-626, Knights of St. Jerome
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber JFF 8, Folio 473-474

Grantee: Knights of St. Jerome Society

Grantor: Allen C. Tyler

Date: June 13, 1885

Notes: The deed transfers one acre of property that is bordered by the "public road leading from St. Inigoes Store" and "the old three notch road." Interestingly, a covenant was executed with the deed that stipulated that the property could be put "to no other purpose than for the use and benefit of said Society to hold their meetings and transactions." It also noted that the "proposed house or stall not be converted nor conveyed or sold for the purpose of a dwelling house or any other purpose..."

Reference: Liber JTB 4, Folio 104

Grantee: David W. Tyler

Grantor: William C. and May L. Bayne

Date: December 29, 1862

Notes: Here the tract called "Elizabeth Manor" consists of 108 acres.



SM 626

On the 1st of 10/10/11

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancetta

April 198

4.1 540

E + S elevations

1 of 1